

Phase 2 : THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Romans 13:11-14

STEP # 1 : DEFINE the C. I. T.

Exegetical Idea

The Apostle Paul after exhorting Christians to be good Christians (chap. 12) and good citizens (chap. 13:1-10) now gave them one good reason for doing all these, and that is because of Christ's soon return.

Therefore in this passage he gave instructions on how Christians should live in the light of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

C.I.T.

The manner in which Christians should live in light of Christ's return is characterized by alertness and holiness.

STEP # 2 : DETERMINE the C. I. S.

Purpose of the Sermon (P. S.)

Audience : A Mixture of Filipinos and Americans gathering for their "East Meets West" school program.

Purposes : *To challenge* complacent Christians to be alert and alive in their service to the Lord.

To confront compromising Christians to stop living in sin and so as not to be ashamed on the day of Christ's return.

Homiletical Idea

Christians living in this dark and sinful world should be conscious of the fact that the light of Christ's return is about to break through. Therefore, complacency and compromise should not characterize the way we live today. Instead, making every effort to live in Christlikeness, we won't have anything to be embarrassed about on the day of His return.

C. I. S.

One good motivation why we should live Christ-like lives today is the imminent return of the Lord Jesus.

STEP # 3 : *DECIDE* on the Title of the Sermon

What Time Is It?

His Coming is Sure ... Are You Ready?

The Final Countdown

Living in the Last Two Minutes

How Then Should You and I Live?

STEP # 4 : DESIGN the Structure of the Sermon

- I. IT IS TIME TO WAKE-UP (v. 11)
- II. IT IS TIME TO CLEAN-UP (vv. 12-13)
- III. IT IS TIME TO DRESS-UP (v. 14)

STEP # 5 : DISCOVER Illustrations to Amplify the Sermon Material

➤ **Poem regarding the coming Judgment Day**

I dreamed that the great judgment morning
Had dawned, and the trumpet had blown;
I dreamed that the nations had gathered
To judgment before the white throne;

From the throne came a bright, shining angel
And stood by the land and the sea,
And swore with his hand raised to heaven,
That time was no longer to be.

The rich man was there but his money
Had melted and vanished away;
A pauper he stood in the judgment,
His debts were too heavy to pay;

The great man was there, but his greatness
When death came, was left far behind!
The angel that opened the records,
Not a trace of his greatness could find.

The gambler was there and the drunkard,
And the man that had sold them the drink,

With the people who sold them the license
Together in hell they did sink.

The moral man came to the judgment,
But his self-righteous rags would not do;
The men who had crucified Jesus
Had passed off as moral men, too.

The soul that had put off salvation -
"Not tonight; I'll get saved by and by;
No time now to think of religion!"
At last, he had found time to die.

And oh, what a weeping and wailing,
As the lost were told of their fate;
They cried for the rocks and the mountains,
They prayed, but their prayer was too late.

➤ **Data regarding Horoscope**

6 out of 10 men and 7 out of 10 women read their horoscopes every day.

➤ **Computer program regarding the end of the world**

One computer program has calculated, taking into account population growth, food and energy resources, environmental decay, etc., that the likely date of the end of the world is 2040 A.D.

➤ **Quotation from Gen. Douglas MacArthur**

When Gen. Douglas MacArthur finally made good of his promise to return, as soon as he landed on the shores of Leyte, he went into the airwaves and over the radio he said,

*“People of the Philippines: I have returned.
By the grace of Almighty God . . . we have come,
dedicated and committed to the task of destroying
every vestige of enemy control over your daily lives . . .”*

➤ **Statistics regarding Drunkenness in America**

42% OF ALL TRAFFIC DEATHS, ALCOHOL IS A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR.

49% OF THE CRIMES IN AMERICA, ALCOHOL IS A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR.

EVERY 24 HOURS IN AMERICA THERE ARE :

- **65 MURDERS**
- **299 RAPES**
- **3,088 AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS**
- **4,413 AUTO THEFTS**
- **8,164 BURGLARIES**

➤ **Illustration on planning to commit sin**

It's like that little girl who's mother told her that she can go to the camp but she's not to go swimming. And so sometime later the mother visited the camp and saw her daughter swimming. She got her out and she said, "Didn't I tell you not to go swimming?" The daughter responded by saying, "Mother, I didn't mean to go swimming." The mother said, "Now don't you lie to me little girl. You certainly mean to go swimming, you got your bathing suit on. If you didn't intend to go swimming, why did you bring your bathing suit with you." And the little girl said, "Well, mother I brought it along just in case I was tempted."

➤ **Story regarding a young man's fear of the Lord's return**

There was this young man, who shared, how he was persuaded by his barkada, to go with them to watch a movie. He knew that it was an X-rated movie. But he was so embarrassed to say no. After being seated for a while, he gathered all the strength he could muster, and he quickly got up. "What are you doing?" asked his friends. "I'm getting up," he replied. "But where are you going?" they urged. "I'm going out," he said. "But the movie just got started." "I know, but I have to get out. You see, I'm a Christian; I believe the Bible. And my Bible tells me that Jesus, my Lord, is coming back soon. He may come any time now and I don't want Him to catch me inside this theater."

STEP # 6 : DEVELOP the Introduction and Conclusion

Pre-introduction (This is needed since this will be my first time to address this audience. This will help establish rapport).

Maayong buntag sa inyong tanan !

That's "Good Morning!" in our native dialect. I thank the Lord for the privilege to join you in this next 5 mornings for your "East Meets West" program. Of course, one poet said that's not possible.

He said "*East is east and west is west. The twain shall not meet.*"

I'm not sure what was the context when he wrote these words but if there's one thing that is definitely bringing the two together – it's the English language.

I have one church member who will be leaving this month for China as a bi-vocational missionary teaching English. Another church member just came back from Cambodia who taught English there. And of course, you have students here at BTC who are now in Thailand also teaching English.

And so the English language has become a meeting point for the East and West. We thank God that we Filipinos speak better English than most of our Asian neighbors as well as other nationalities. I mean, others really need help

when it comes to their English. Like consider these signs and notices written in English found in other countries. Like this one found . . .

Introduction to message proper:

“I shall return !”

These are words made popular by Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Another possible Introduction :

What time is it?

With the U.S. invasion of Iraq and the looming Middle East crisis, people are again asking, “What in the world is going to happen?” There are people already making predictions as to how things will turn out.

You know, man’s interest in future events is legendary.

People are extremely anxious to get a glimpse into the future.

God did not leave us in the dark when it comes to future events.

But this was given not to satisfy our curiosity.

He told us what would happen tomorrow so that we will know how we are to live today.

So, what time is it?

Conclusion

➤ Read poem regarding Second Coming of Jesus Christ

FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED

I AM PART OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED.
THE DIE HAS BEEN CAST. THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.
I HAVE STEPPED OVER THE LINE.
I WON’T LOOK BACK, LET UP, SLOW DOWN, OR BACK AWAY.

MY PAST IS REDEEMED, MY PRESENT MAKES SENSE,
MY FUTURE IS SECURED. I’M FINISHED AND DONE WITH LOW LIVING,
SIGHT-WALKING, SMALL PLANNING, SMOOTH KNEES, COLORLESS DREAMS,
TAMED VISIONS, MUNDANE TALKING, CHEAP GIVING, AND DWARFED GOALS.

I NO LONGER NEED PRE-EMINENCE, PROSPERITY, POSITION,
PROMOTIONS, PLAUDITS, OR POPULARITY. I DON'T HAVE TO BE RIGHT,
FIRST, TOPS, RECOGNIZED, PRAISED, REGARDED OR REWARDED.

I NOW LIVE BY FAITH, LEAN ON HIS PRESENCE, WALK WITH PATIENCE,
LIVE BY PRAYER, AND LABOR WITH POWER. MY FACE IS SET, MY GAIT IS FAST,
MY GOAL IS HEAVEN, MY ROAD IS NARROW, MY WAY IS ROUGH,
MY COMPANIONS ARE FEW, MY GUIDE IS RELIABLE, MY MISSION IS CLEAR.

I CANNOT BE BOUGHT, COMPROMISED, DETOURED, LURED AWAY,
TURNED BACK, DELUDED OR DELAYED. I WILL NOT FLINCH IN THE FACE
OF SACRIFICE, HESITATE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ADVERSARY, NEGOTIATE AT
THE TABLE OF THE NEMY, PONDER AT THE POOL OF POPULARITY,
OR MEANDER IN THE MAZE OF MEDIOCRITY.

I WON'T GIVE UP, SHUT UP, LET UP, UNTIL I HAVE STAYED UP, STORED UP,
PRAYED UP, PAID UP, SPOKEN UP FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST.
I AM A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST. I MUST GO 'TIL HE COMES, GIVE 'TIL I DROP,
PREACH 'TIL ALL KNOW AND WORK 'TIL HE STOPS ME.

AND WHEN HE COMES FOR HIS OWN, HE WILL HAVE NO PROBLEM
RECOGNIZING ME. MY BANNER IS CLEAR.
I AM PART OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED.

Then ask these questions:

If He comes today, will He have a problem recognizing you?

If He comes at this very moment, is there something will you be ashamed
about?

Not if you know what time it is!

**STEP # 7 : DEVOTE Enough Time to Write
the Sermon Manuscript**